

Serial No.: 10/780,384

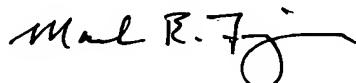
II. Claims 24-29, drawn to a method for producing hydrogen,  
classified in class 423, subclass 648.1

The Examiner has indicated that the inventions are independent or distinct because the method as claimed can be practiced by another and materially different apparatus, such as one which does not include a hydrogen-rich gas outlet or a retentate gas outlet and, as a result, has required that Applicants elect one of the inventions to which the examination will be restricted.

Accordingly, in response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Claims 1-23, drawn to an apparatus for producing hydrogen.

Applicants sincerely believe that this patent application is now in condition for examination and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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